

ENTERED

July 11, 2025

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

IN RE:	§	CASE NO. 25-30155
	§	
ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH, LLC,	§	(CHAPTER 11)
	§	
DEBTOR	§	
	§	
IN RE:	§	CASE NO. 25-31937
	§	
ALLIANCE ENERGY PARTNERS,	§	(CHAPTER 11)
LLC,	§	
	§	
DEBTOR	§	

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF
OF HOWLEY LAW PLLC AS CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE COUNSEL**

Upon the application (the “*Application*”)¹ of the Chapter 11 Trustee (the “*Trustee*”) for the bankruptcy estates (the “*Estates*”) of the above-captioned debtors (“*Debtors*”) for the entry of an order (the “*Order*”) authorizing the Trustee to retain and employ Howley Law PLLC (“*Howley Law*”) as his general bankruptcy counsel effective as of May 28, 2025, as set forth in the Application; and the Court having reviewed the Application, the Declaration of Eric Terry, of Counsel to Howley Law (the “*Terry Declaration*”), and it appearing that no other or further notice of the Application is required; and it appearing that the Court has jurisdiction to consider the Application in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas*, dated May 24, 2012; and it appearing that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2) and that the Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and it

¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Application.

appearing that venue of this proceeding and the Application is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having found based on the representations made in the Application, and the Terry Declaration, that Howley Law's employment is in the best interests of the Debtors' Estates and Howley Law (a) does not represent, and does not hold, any interest adverse to the Debtors or the Debtors' Estates, and (b) is a "disinterested person" within the meaning of section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code; and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and sufficient cause appearing therefore, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Trustee is authorized pursuant to sections 327, 328, and 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules 2014 and 2016, and Local Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1, to employ and retain Howley Law as general bankruptcy counsel for the Trustee effective May 28, 2025 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Engagement Letter attached to the Application as **Exhibit B**, as may be modified by this Order.

2. In the event of any inconsistency among the Engagement Letter, the Application, the Terry Declaration, and this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.

3. Howley Law shall be compensated in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Letter as modified by this Order, and shall file fee applications for monthly, interim, and final allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses, if any, that comply with the procedures set forth in sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and any orders or procedures of this Court. For billing purposes, Howley Law shall keep its time in one tenth (1/10) hour increments. Howley Law also intends to make a reasonable effort to comply with the U.S. Trustee's requests for additional information both in connection

with the Application and the interim and final fee applications to be filed by Howley Law in these chapter 11 cases.

4. Howley Law shall provide ten business days' notice to the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee and the Trustee before any increases in the hourly rates set forth in the Application or the Engagement Letter are implemented. The U.S. Trustee retains all rights to object to any rate increase on all grounds, including the reasonableness standard set forth in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increase pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Application or the Terry Declaration, Howley Law shall not be entitled to reimbursement for fees and expenses in connection with any objection to its fees, without further order of the Court.

6. To the extent that Howley Law uses the services of contract attorneys in these cases, Howley Law (i) shall pass-through the cost of such contract attorneys at the same rate that Howley Law pays the contract attorneys; (ii) shall seek reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket expenses only; and (iii) shall ensure that the contract attorneys are subject to the same conflict checks and disclosures as required of Howley Law by Bankruptcy Rule 2014.

7. The Trustee and Howley Law are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application as modified by this Order.

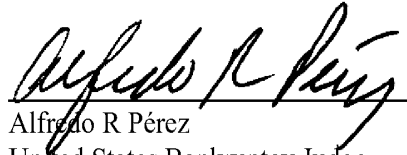
8. Notice of the Application as provided therein is deemed to be good and sufficient notice of such Application, and the requirements of the Local Rules are satisfied by the contents of the Application.

9. Howley Law will review its files periodically during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases to ensure that no conflicts or other disqualifying circumstances exist or arise. If any new relevant facts or relationships are discovered or arise, Howley Law will use reasonable efforts to identify such further developments and will file a supplemental declaration, as required under Bankruptcy Rule 2014(a).

10. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a), the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon entry of this Order.

11. The Court retains jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

Signed: July 11, 2025


Alfredo R Pérez
United States Bankruptcy Judge

United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas

In re:
ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH, LLC
Alliance Energy Partners, LLC
Debtors

Case No. 25-30155-arp
Chapter 11

CERTIFICATE OF NOTICE

District/off: 0541-4
Date Rcvd: Jul 11, 2025

User: ADIuser
Form ID: pdf002

Page 1 of 3
Total Noticed: 6

The following symbols are used throughout this certificate:

Symbol	Definition
+	Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP, adding the last four digits to complete the zip +4, or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

Notice by first class mail was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center on Jul 13, 2025:

Recip ID	Recipient Name and Address
db	+ ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH, LLC, 5450 Honea Egypt Rd, Montgomery, TX 77316-2364
jdb	+ Alliance Energy Partners, LLC, 20008 Champions Forest Dr., Suite 1203, Spring, TX 77379-8697
aty	+ Eric Terry, Howley Law PLLC, 700 Louisiana Street, Ste 4545, Houston, TX 77002, UNITED STATES 77002-2869
cr	+ Jerod P Furr, 259 Saddle Ridge, Spring, TX 77380-2748
cr	+ Patriot Drilling Services LLC, c/o William R. Sudela, Crady Jewett McCulley & Houren LLP, 2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 1700, Houston, TX 77019-2125

TOTAL: 5

Notice by electronic transmission was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.

Electronic transmission includes sending notices via email (Email/text and Email/PDF), and electronic data interchange (EDI). Electronic transmission is in Eastern Standard Time.

Recip ID	Notice Type: Email Address	Date/Time	Recipient Name and Address
cr	Email/Text: lloyd.lim@keanmiller.com	Jul 11 2025 19:47:00	DrilTech, LLC, C/O Rachel Kubanda, 711 Louisiana Street, Suite 1800, Houston, TX 77002

TOTAL: 1

BYPASSED RECIPIENTS

The following addresses were not sent this bankruptcy notice due to an undeliverable address, *duplicate of an address listed above, *P duplicate of a preferred address, or ## out of date forwarding orders with USPS.

Recip ID	Bypass Reason	Name and Address
aty		Okin Adams Bartlett Curry LLP
cr		Dustin Etter
intp		Erik and Darla Ostrander
cr		KLEIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
crcom		Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

TOTAL: 5 Undeliverable, 0 Duplicate, 0 Out of date forwarding address

NOTICE CERTIFICATION

I, Gustava Winters, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have sent the attached document to the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Notice and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 309): Pursuant to Fed .R. Bank. P.2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Jul 13, 2025

Signature: /s/Gustava Winters

District/off: 0541-4
Date Rcvd: Jul 11, 2025

User: ADIuser
Form ID: pdf002

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Total Noticed: 6

CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The following persons/entities were sent notice through the court's CM/ECF electronic mail (Email) system on July 11, 2025 at the address(es) listed below:

Name	Email Address
Abdiel Lopez-Castro	on behalf of Creditor Dustin Etter alopezcastro@hwa.com
Branch Masterson Sheppard	on behalf of Defendant Jeana Lea Hurley bsheppard@mcglinchey.com sdeleon@gallowaylawfirm.com
Branch Masterson Sheppard	on behalf of Defendant Connect Realty.com Inc. bsheppard@mcglinchey.com, sdeleon@gallowaylawfirm.com
Branch Masterson Sheppard	on behalf of Defendant Heaven Lee Properties LLC bsheppard@mcglinchey.com, sdeleon@gallowaylawfirm.com
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant Alliance Energy Partners LLC dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant AE Partners Holdings Inc. dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH LLC dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant AEP Asset Holdings LLC dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant Jerod P Furr dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Debtor ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH LLC dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant Invictus Drilling Motors LLC dcrain@e-merger.law
Deborah Louise Crain	on behalf of Defendant Corina Furr dcrain@e-merger.law
Eric Brad Terry	on behalf of Trustee Tom Howley eric@howley-law.com
Ha Minh Nguyen	on behalf of U.S. Trustee US Trustee ha.nguyen@usdoj.gov
Heather Heath McIntyre	on behalf of Creditor Dustin Etter HMcIntyre@hwallp.com dek@hwallp.com;lslater@hwa.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant AE Partners Holdings Inc. randy@baysfirm.com, Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant Alliance Energy Partners LLC randy@baysfirm.com, Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH LLC randy@baysfirm.com, Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant AEP Asset Holdings LLC randy@baysfirm.com, Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant Jerod P Furr randy@baysfirm.com Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant Invictus Drilling Motors LLC randy@baysfirm.com, Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
James Randal Bays	on behalf of Defendant Corina Furr randy@baysfirm.com Kerry@baysfirm.com;randybays@hotmail.com;Vickie@baysfirm.com
Justin William Randall Renshaw	on behalf of Creditor IAE International Inc justin@renshaw-law.com, kim@renshaw-law.com
Leonard H Simon	

District/off: 0541-4
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	on behalf of Creditor Jerod P Furr Isimon@pendergraffsimon.com csanchez@pendergraffsimon.com;jdavila@pendergraffsimon.com;rlp@pendergraffsimon.com
Leonard H Simon	on behalf of Defendant Jerod P Furr Isimon@pendergraffsimon.com csanchez@pendergraffsimon.com;jdavila@pendergraffsimon.com;rlp@pendergraffsimon.com
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Noah E Meek	on behalf of Creditor Dustin Etter nmeek@irelanlaw.com nperez@irelanlaw.com;scartwright@irelanlaw.com
Rachel Kubanda	on behalf of Creditor DrilTech LLC rachel.kubanda@keanmiller.com, michelle.friery@keanmiller.com;kristina.tipton@keanmiller.com;teresa.miller@keanmiller.com
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Sara Aniece Morton	on behalf of Defendant Connect Realty.com Inc. smorton@rmjelaw.com
Sara Aniece Morton	on behalf of Defendant Heaven Lee Properties LLC smorton@rmjelaw.com
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Thomas A Howley	tom@howley-law.com thowley@ecf.axosfs.com
Timothy L. Wentworth	on behalf of Joint Debtor Alliance Energy Partners LLC twentworth@okinadams.com, sgonzales@okinadams.com;nholon@okinadams.com
Timothy L. Wentworth	on behalf of Attorney Okin Adams Bartlett Curry LLP twentworth@okinadams.com sgonzales@okinadams.com;nholon@okinadams.com
Timothy L. Wentworth	on behalf of Debtor ALLIANCE FARM AND RANCH LLC twentworth@okinadams.com, sgonzales@okinadams.com;nholon@okinadams.com
Timothy L. Wentworth	on behalf of Debtor Alliance Energy Partners LLC twentworth@okinadams.com, sgonzales@okinadams.com;nholon@okinadams.com
US Trustee	USTPRegion07.HU.ECF@USDOJ.GOV
William James Hotze	on behalf of Creditor Committee Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors whotze@dykema.com
William R Sudela	on behalf of Creditor Patriot Drilling Services LLC wsudela@cjmhlaw.com

TOTAL: 47